



Be informed about the Indiana Department of Correction

Weekly Views

From the Office of J. David Donahue, Commissioner

“If your life is free of failures, you're not taking enough risks.” ~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr., A Father's Book of Wisdom

Friday, July 11, 2008

Major General R. Martin Umbarger, Adjutant of the Indiana National Guard, and Commissioner Donahue visited Camp Summit and Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. At Camp Summit, the General's two Blackhawk Helicopters landed just outside the "O" Course where students offered a teambuilding demonstration, followed by a demonstration of drill and ceremony. At PJCF, General Umbarger inspected the "Echo15" unit of the Future Soldiers program and spoke briefly to the offenders and staff participating in the volunteer program.

The Department's inaugural Leadership Academy debuted at the Correctional Training Institute this week, with 24 staff from facilities statewide attending. The Leadership Academy is designated as the Department's precursor to the Experienced and Emerging Leadership program and the Executive Management series of advancement within the agency.

Congratulations to Westville Correctional Facility for passing the annual ACA audit with a score of 100% on the mandatory items and 98% on the non-mandatory standards.

Rockville Correctional Facility held its first PLUS graduation with 19 graduates receiving certificates. Dr. Steven Hall was the keynote speaker. Graduates and guests enjoyed refreshments provided by the Culinary Arts class following the ceremony.

Staff at Putnamville Correctional Facility donated over 24 units of blood to the Indiana Blood Center. The Blood Center has a daily goal of 550 units, but this was negatively affected due to flooding and storm damage.

Mary Hulman-George, a benefactor of the retired race horse program at Putnamville Correctional facility, toured the Equine Management/Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation Program with representatives from the "Open Range Horse Rescue Center" in Colorado. Also, the program received another Indiana Racing Thoroughbred. His name is "Jim's Rusty Gem." He is an 8 year old, 16-hand, sound gelding. His arrival puts the Equine/TRF Program count at 17 horses with 2 adoptions.

Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit recently held a bake sale in which PLUS students raised \$164 selling the cookies, cakes, and brownies they prepared. Proceeds from the sale were earmarked for charities providing assistance to Indiana citizens affected by the floods of 2008.

Madison Correctional Facility's PLUS Unit has adopted "Hanging Rock Hill," one of Madison's landmarks. The area, which had been restored to its original beauty by the facility's highway crew over a year ago, features a beautiful waterfall alongside of State Highway 7.

Pendleton Correctional Facility recently set an all-time facility record for the number of off-ground work crew hours performed by Level One offenders. During the month of June, offenders assigned to these crews logged a total of 6,891 community service hours.

Branchville Correctional Facility's Therapeutic Communities completed their annual school bus wash program. Offenders washed, waxed, and detailed 25 school buses from a local rural school corporation. This has allowed the school corporation to free up summer maintenance employees and assign them to other projects. Offenders put in over 600 hours on the project.

The Indiana State Prison's fire suppression program received recognition from the news media this week. Offenders are trained and assigned to several housing unit throughout the facility. When a fire is reported, the offender Fire Chief reports to the scene and ordered the necessary equipment and firefighters to the scene, with the help of Lieutenant Carl Tibbles.

The Indiana Women's Prison donated a check for \$ 800.74 to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The money was raised by 100 IWP offenders who participated in a Fundraiser Walk. In addition to the money, the Community Outreach staff and offenders donated a handmade Breast Cancer Survivor Quilt to be auctioned at one of the upcoming Susan G. Komen events.

Staff from the Indianapolis Deputy Mayor's Office visited the Plainfield Re-Entry Educational Facility (PREF) this week. The staff toured the facility, met with executive staff, and enjoyed a meal prepared by the facility's Culinary Arts program.